

Cleaning Our Waters,
Enhancing Our
Neighborhoods...

GREEN STREETS



DEPARTMENT OF
**ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**



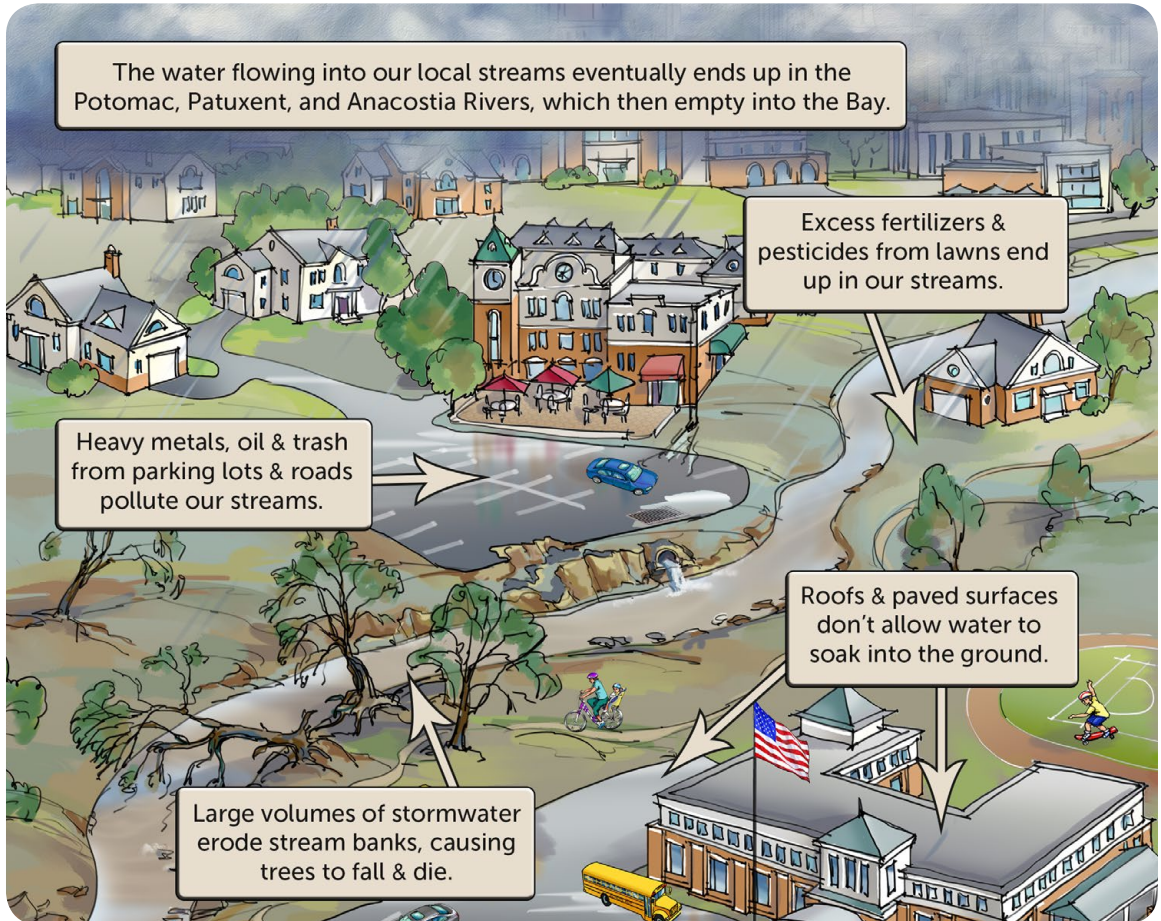
The Story of Stormwater

Montgomery County is now home to more than 1 million people-- twice as many as in 1970. This means more roads, parking lots, and buildings to support everyone.

With this development, there are fewer open spaces and trees to absorb rainfall and slow its flow. Instead, rainwater flows

quickly off of roofs and paved surfaces into the storm drains, which lead directly to local streams.

Unfortunately, rain isn't the only thing going down storm drains. As the water flows over streets and parking lots, it picks up trash and pollutants. We call this polluted runoff "**stormwater.**"



How We Change the Story

Stormwater is one of the County's biggest environmental challenges, and there are many types of projects underway to reduce and prevent it. **Green Streets** projects act to slow the flow, prevent erosion, and reduce the pollution entering our streams.

What are Green Streets?

Green Streets use engineering and landscaping techniques to capture and clean stormwater from streets and parking lots. They are built in the grassy area along a street. (This County-owned space, which often includes a sidewalk, is called the “public right-of-way”.)

Each Green Street technique may function differently, but they all have the same goal: to ensure the cleanest possible water flows slowly into our streams. They contain plants, soil and organisms that filter and breakdown pollution while slowing the flow.

Green Streets are a critical part of Montgomery County’s strategy to control stormwater, and they help meet Federal and State water quality mandates. They also create attractive streetscapes that enhance communities.

Benefits to Our Neighborhoods

Green Streets provide multiple benefits beyond protecting our waters. They:

- Manage local stormwater runoff
- Create biodiversity and habitat for pollinators
- Visually unify a neighborhood with attractive streetscapes
- Can be used to calm traffic in residential areas



“I’m thankful for this work and the restoration efforts in my neighborhood. You brought the stream behind my house back to life.”

- Breewood resident

Common Questions about Green Streets

Who Maintains the Green Streets?

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection is responsible for maintaining all Green Street projects. They are visited regularly throughout the year for routine inspection and maintenance.

Are Mosquitoes a Concern?

Mosquito larvae need 6-10 days in standing water to become adults. Green Streets are engineered to drain within 48 hours, and therefore should not support mosquito breeding.

What If I Have Concerns about a Green Street?

If you have any questions or concerns regarding a Green Street project in your neighborhood, contact the County by calling 3-1-1 or emailing AskDEP@montgomerycountymd.gov



Green Streets Techniques



Bio-Swale



Tree Box

“Our property borders a Green Street garden, and we receive comments on how nice it looks all the time!”

- Portland Place resident



Rain Garden

Other types include bioretention gardens, curb extensions, and underground infiltration.



Simple choices at home

...Can have a big impact on our water quality!

- Minimize or eliminate the use of fertilizers and non-organic chemicals.
- Follow a car maintenance routine to prevent auto fluid leaks
- Pick up after your pet to reduce bacteria pollution in streams.
- Volunteer with the County's Stream Stewards program or a local nonprofit

View more green daily actions and tips at **mygreenmontgomery.org**



Create a RainScape!

While Green Streets are installed on the County public right-of-way,

RainScapes are stormwater management projects that residents, HOAs & businesses can install on their own property. Rebates are available!

RainScapes include rain gardens, native plants, porous pavement and rain barrels.

Learn more at rainscapes.org!



**Questions? Call 3-1-1
or visit mc311.com**
(Outside Montgomery County, call 240-777-0311)
TTY 301-251-4850



or email DEP at

AskDEP@montgomerycountymd.gov